EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-9, 11-15, 18-22 have been allowed.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Dodd (Reg No 46437) on 6/4/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims, please amend:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, a method for determining if an attachment is to be deleted in response to a deletion command requesting deletion of a corresponding electronic message, the method comprising:

        an act of receiving an electronic message, the electronic message including:

                a message body;

                an attachment attached to the message body, the attachment storing attachment data associated with the electronic message; and

                a coupling field indicating if the attachment data~~-~~ is coupled to or decoupled from the message body, coupling to the message body indicating that the attachment data is to be deleted along with the

message body when the message body is deleted, decoupling from the message body indicating that the attachment data is to be retained when the electronic message is deleted;

an act of storing the message body in a message silo of a database, the message body being stored along with one or more other message items defined in accordance with a message schema;

an act of storing the attachment in a document silo of the database;

an act of maintaining a link between the attachment in the document silo and the electronic message in the message silo such that the message body and the attachment remain related as   electronic message data even though they are stored in different silos;

an act of receiving a delete command requesting deletion of the electronic message;

an act of deleting the message body in response to and in accordance with the received delete command;

an act of automatically referring to the coupling field included in the electronic message in response to the delete command to determine if the attachment data is to be deleted along with the message body or if the attachment data is to be retained based on whether the attachment data is coupled to or decoupled from the message body respectively; and

an act of processing the attachment data in accordance with the indication in the

coupling field included in the electronic message based on the reference to the

coupling field included in the electronic message.

Claim 7.   (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) In a computer system that is network connectable along with one or

more other computer systems to a network, a method for identifying an attachment in response to

a message related query, the method comprising:

an act of receiving an electronic message, the electronic message including:

a message body;

an attachment attached to the message body, the attachment storing

attachment data associated with the electronic message; and

a coupling field indicating that the attachment data is decoupled

from the message body, decoupling from the message body

indicating that the attachment data is to be retained when the

electronic message is deleted;

an act of storing the message body in a message silo of a database, the message body

being stored along with one or more other message items defined in accordance with a message

schema;

an act of storing the attachment in a document silo of the database;

     <u>an act of maintaining a link between the attachment in the document silo and the</u>

<u>electronic message in the message silo such that the message body and the attachment remain</u>

<u>related as</u>   <u>electronic message data even though they are stored in different silos;</u>

        an act of receiving a delete command to delete the electronic message;

        in response to the delete command:

                an act of deleting the message body;<u> and</u>

                an act of retaining the attachment based on the indication in the

                coupling field included in the electronic message;

        an act of receiving a query for message related data that satisfies query criteria

        subsequent to deletion of the message body;

        an act of identifying the retained attachment as message related data that satisfies

        the query criteria not withstanding that the message body was deleted prior to

        receiving the query; and

        an act of returning at least a link to the attachment in response to the query.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in a computer system that is

network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer

program product for determining if an attachment is to be deleted in response to a deletion

command requesting deletion of a corresponding electronic message, the computer program

product comprising one or more physical storage media having stored thereon computer-

executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to

perform the following:

receive an electronic message, the electronic message including

a message body;

an attachment attached to the message body, the attachment storing attachment data

associated with the electronic message; and

a coupling field indicating if the attachment data is coupled to or decoupled from

the message body, coupling to the message body indicating that the attachment

data is to be deleted along with the message body when the message body is

deleted, decoupling from the message body indicating that the attachment data is

to be retained when the electronic message is deleted;

store the message body in a message silo of a database, the message body being stored

along with one or more other message items defined in accordance with a message schema;

store the attachment in a document silo of the database;

maintain a link between the attachment in the document silo and the electronic

message in the message silo such that the message body and the attachment remain related as

electronic message data even though they are stored in different silos;

receive a delete command requesting deletion of the electronic message;

delete the message body in response top and in accordance with the received delete

command; and

refer to the coupling field included in the attachment to determine if the attachment data is to be

deleted along with the message body or if the attachment data is to be retained based on whether

the attachment data is coupled to or decoupled from the message body in response to receiving

the delete command.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in a computer system that is

network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer

program product for identifying an attachment in response to a message related query, the

computer program product comprising one or more physical storage media having stored thereon

computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system

to perform the following:

receive an electronic message, the electronic message including:

> a message body;

> an attachment attached to the message body, the attachment storing attachment
>
> data associated with the electronic message; and

> a coupling field indicating that the attachment data is decoupled from the message
>
> body, decoupling from the message body indicating that the attachment data is to
>
> be retained when the electronic message is deleted;

store the message body in a message silo of a database, the message body being stored along with one or more other message items defined in accordance with a message schema;

store the attachment in a document silo of the database;

maintain a link between the attachment in the document silo and the electronic message in the message silo such that the message body and the attachment remain related as electronic message data even though they are stored in different silos;

receive a delete command to delete the electronic message;

in response to the delete command:

delete the message body; and

retain the attachment;

receive a query for message related data that satisfies query criteria subsequent to deletion of the message body;

identify the attachment as message related data that satisfies the query criteria not withstanding that the message body was deleted prior to receiving the query; and

return at least a link to the attachment in response to the query.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by

rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the

Amendment filed on 2 April 2008 with respect to the amended claim limitations and

further amended claim limitations in the Examiner's Amendment filed herewith point out

the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for

allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's

reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).   .

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to ASAD M. NAWAZ whose telephone number is

(571)272-3988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AMN

/saleh najjar/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2155